

## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## State of the Water Management System

## Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

July 23-27, 2007

**Mission Statement:**

*To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.*



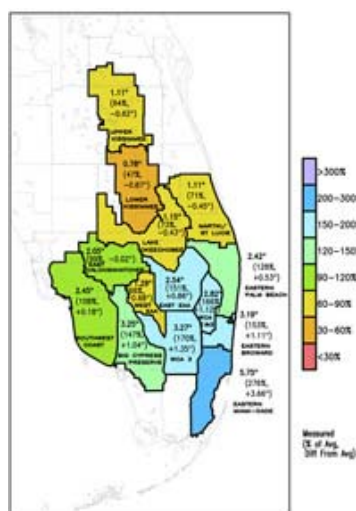
South Florida Water  
Management District  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

**District News and Happenings**

• In another first for Everglades restoration, the Governing Board of the District last week formally put the wheels in motion for reserving the water needed for environmental protection as part of the \$1.2 billion plan to restore the Indian River Lagoon. This marks the first Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan project for which the District will undertake a water reservation rule-making process, a requirement of the 2000 Water Resources Development Act.

The project is designed to return historic flows of cleaner water across 90,000 acres of natural land spanning Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. The plan includes construction and operation of 12,000 acres of inland reservoirs and 9,000 acres of pollution-filtering treatment marsh, and the removal of more than five million cubic yards of muck from the waterways.

Going above and beyond federal requirements, the District is also setting aside the existing water in the lagoon system used for the protection of fish and wildlife. Together with the Picayune Strand restoration, the Indian River Lagoon project is awaiting Congressional authorization in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act.

**System-Wide Overview**

Click map for larger image

**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 1.73 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for above average rainfall. Rainfall may decrease to near average by Friday, but more changes on Saturday suggest an increase in rains again over the weekend.

**U.S. Drought Monitor:**

The [Drought Monitor](#) focuses on broad-scale conditions and identifies general drought areas, labeling droughts by intensity. This week, areas of the District fall into four areas of intensity, ranging from normal to severe drought.

**Lake Okeechobee:**

Lake Okeechobee measured at 9.09 feet NGVD 29 (7.79 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.01 feet lower than that day last week and 0.17 feet higher than it was a month ago. The rain received over the past seven days was typical for this time in July, and was just enough to counter losses due to evapotranspiration. No water supply deliveries are currently being made from the lake.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:**

The upper Kissimmee Basin received 3.14 inches of rain over the last seven days, and the lower basin received 1.93 inches. Flow has been reestablished to the Kissimmee River. The river was without inflow from the upper basin for 252 days. One week ago, the concentration of dissolved oxygen had declined to very low levels, but it has recovered fairly quickly as flow was reestablished.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:**

In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases occurred at S-80 over the past week. Oyster survey results indicate that the number of oysters in the St. Lucie increased since last fall. Salinity conditions are good. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, discharge occurred at S-79 last week. Salinity in the upper estuary remains high. In the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay, salinity conditions are good.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):**

Rainfall in the WCAs ranged from 1.6-3.0 inches. The only area with a significant water stage increase was WCA-2B, which was due to high localized rain. Average water stage increase across the entire system for the week was only 0.04 feet. Depths, which averaged about 1 foot across the system, are relatively low for this time of year. WCA-1 is at regulation, WCA-2 is above regulation and WCA-3 is below regulation.

**Everglades National Park:**

The Park received 1.7 inches of rain during the past week. Water stages declined (0.4-2.5 inches) across most of the Park.

*Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map above captures District rain gauge data only.*

**Florida Bay:**

Despite lower water levels, salinity across the bay was generally stable.

**Biscayne Bay:**

Daily salinity conditions increased throughout Biscayne Bay from mid-April through mid-May. Average monthly salinity increased bay-wide. Daily rainfall ranged from 0-1.0 inches, with a cumulative rainfall of approximately 2.0 inches, which is approximately 3 inches less than the previous month.

## Area Water Restrictions:



Phase II water restrictions target outdoor water use, limiting lawn watering for five acres or less, to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest [Just the FACTs sheet](#). The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

**West Palm Beach Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach Water Utilities - Modified Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions**

These utilities have been identified as at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitoring wells. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation of five acres or less to one day per week and four hours per day: Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted. Users in the City of West Palm Beach will be included as part of this declaration, in concurrence with a SFWMD emergency order that allows the City, under specific conditions, to deliver water supplied from the L-8 Reservoir or from the City's emergency well field to Clear Lake to replenish the City's drinking water supply. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation to one day per week and four hours per day; restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted. Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest Just the [FACTS sheet](#).

Effective May 11, permitted agricultural and other area users who withdraw water directly from surface water sources connected to Lake Istokpoga will transition to Phase III water restrictions in incremental stages as the water level of Lake Istokpoga continues to drop below specified thresholds. Users were notified of the specific tiers representing 35 and 45 percent cutbacks and are encouraged to voluntarily exercise additional water conservation measures as practicable.

**Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties; portion of Charlotte County -**

**Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions**

Phase II restrictions remain in place in Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties, along with a portion of Charlotte County, limiting lawn watering and car washing to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd-numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses.

These limitations and other actions are intended to produce a 30 percent water use reduction by agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

Phase II and Phase III restrictions allow low-volume, spot-watering using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the designated landscape watering days. Additional watering days and times also have been allowed for new landscaping over a 30-day establishment period.

The use of 100 percent reclaimed water, an alternative water source, is not subject to restrictions. The use of water for health, fire, safety and other essential purposes also is not restricted.

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**Did you know?**

The South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Niki Spencer at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6004.

\* SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.